

# Compensation Given Victim Of N. Y. False Imprisonment

NEW YORK, June 16.—(AP)—A State Court of Claims judge awarded \$112,291 today to 41-year old Louis Hoffner as compensation for his twelve year imprisonment on a murder conviction that was set aside in 1952.

Hoffner, a soft-spoken, bespectacled bachelor, thanked Judge Frederick A. Young, saying:

"I feel very good that it's all over.

"I've got my freedom, that's the main thing," he told reporters.

Judge Young called Hoffner's original conviction "a tragic miscarriage of justice."

Hoffner was sentenced to life imprisonment for the still unsolved slaying of a Queens bartender in 1940.

A Queens County judge set

aside the conviction after a five year campaign headed by Edward J. Mowery, New York newspaperman.

The campaign brought disclosure of minutes of a police lineup at which the State's star witness failed to identify Hoffner—although he did so later in court.

Results of a lie-detector test showed Hoffner was telling the truth in claiming innocence. Hoffner was not allowed to take the test when he was first accused in 1940.

Judge Young called the court

of claims "the conscience of the State," adding that "we can be proud that our system of laws recognizes that our citizens deserve redress not only for claims legally enforceable but also for moral obligations."